

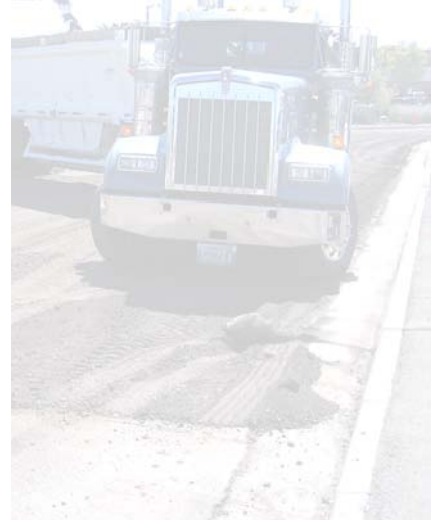
MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HIGHWAY PROJECT COST ESTIMATING AND MANAGEMENT (HPCE)



CONTRACT#: 308059, RESEARCH PROJECT#: 8189

DATE: MARCH 11, 2008
MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT # 12
PERIOD: FEBRUARY 1- 29, 2008



PREPARED BY:

 SIERRA TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERS, INC.
1005 TERMINAL WAY, SUITE 125
RENO, NV 89502

PREPARED FOR:

Montana Department of Transportation
2701 Prospect Avenue
P.O. Box 201001
Helena, MT 59620-1001

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
Introduction.....	1
Task 1 – MDT’s Structure, Operations, and Current Process.....	1
Task 2 – Critical Review of NCHRP 8-49 Literature Review.....	1
Task 3 – Recommendations.....	2
Task 4 – Consultants Visits and Schedule.....	2
Task 5 – Develop Detailed Strategic Procedure	2
Task 6 – Implementation Plan	2
Project Schedule and Financial Summaries	2

LIST OF FIGURES

	PAGE
Figure 1. Expenditures versus Planned Budget for Each Task.....	3
Figure 2. Cumulative Expenditures versus Budget.....	4

INTRODUCTION

Sierra Transportation Engineers, Inc. (STE) is pleased to provide its 12th monthly progress report for Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) contract number 308059, titled "Highway Project Cost Estimating and Management (HPCE)." This monthly progress report covers the period February 1, 2008 to February 28, 2008.

The overall objective of this project is to develop a comprehensive document to determine the best practice of efficient highway cost estimating for Montana. Upon completion of this research, recommendations are to be made for improvements to the current cost estimation process.

The specific tasks identified in the project work plan are:

- Task 1 - MDT's Structure, Operations, and Current Process
- Task 2 - Critical Review of NCHRP 8-49 Literature Review
- Task 3 - Recommendations
- Task 4 - Consultant Visits and Schedule
- Task 5 - Develop Detailed Strategic Procedure
- Task 6 - Implementation Plan

The following paragraphs describe the work accomplished during this reporting period under each task.

TASK 1 – MDT'S STRUCTURE, OPERATIONS, AND CURRENT PROCESS

During this reporting period, STE continued its efforts preparing a draft final report containing its findings on Task 1 activities. The details of Task 1 activities thus far have been reported in STE's previous progress reports and also STE's interim report.

Worked planned for next month

STE will process the information gathered from the interviews with MDT personnel and present the results in STE's draft final report.

TASK 2 – CRITICAL REVIEW OF NCHRP 8-49 LITERATURE REVIEW

During this reporting period, STE continued its efforts preparing a draft final report containing its findings on Task 2 activities. The details of Task 2 activities thus far have been reported in STE's previous progress reports and also STE's interim report.

Worked planned for next month

STE will continue reviewing the NCHRP 8-49 report and its literature review of various agencies across the United States. The findings will be presented in STE's draft final report.

TASK 3 – RECOMMENDATIONS

During this reporting period, STE reviewed the feedback received from the project panel on recommendations suggested in project interim report. In particular, the issue of cost indexing and how to better capture inflation trends were investigated.

Worked planned for next month

STE will continue working on the recommendations during March. The results will be presented in STE's draft final report.

TASK 4 – CONSULTANTS VISITS AND SCHEDULE

No visits were conducted.

Worked planned for next month

No visits are planned.

TASK 5 – DEVELOP DETAILED STRATEGIC PROCEDURE

STE is working on activities under this task using the findings of literature review, interviews, and statistical analysis. The objective is to develop detailed procedure on improving initial cost estimation by capturing risk factors that impact project cost. STE discussed a series of potential strategies with the project panel during the interim report meeting. STE has received feedback from the project panel and is in the process of providing its findings in the draft final report.

Worked planned for next month

During March, STE will continue its activities for Task 5.

TASK 6 – IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Activities under this task were continued during the month of February. The implementation plan is being drafted per feedback received from the project panel.

Worked planned for next month

Work will continue based on recommendations developed under Task 5.

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND FINANCIAL SUMMARIES

Figure 1 shows the project expenditures versus planned budget for each task. Figure 2 represents the cumulative project expenditures versus budget for the entire project to date.

All project activities are per schedule and the project is within planned budget. STE does not foresee any problems to report.

Figure 1. Expenditures Versus Planned Budget for Each Task

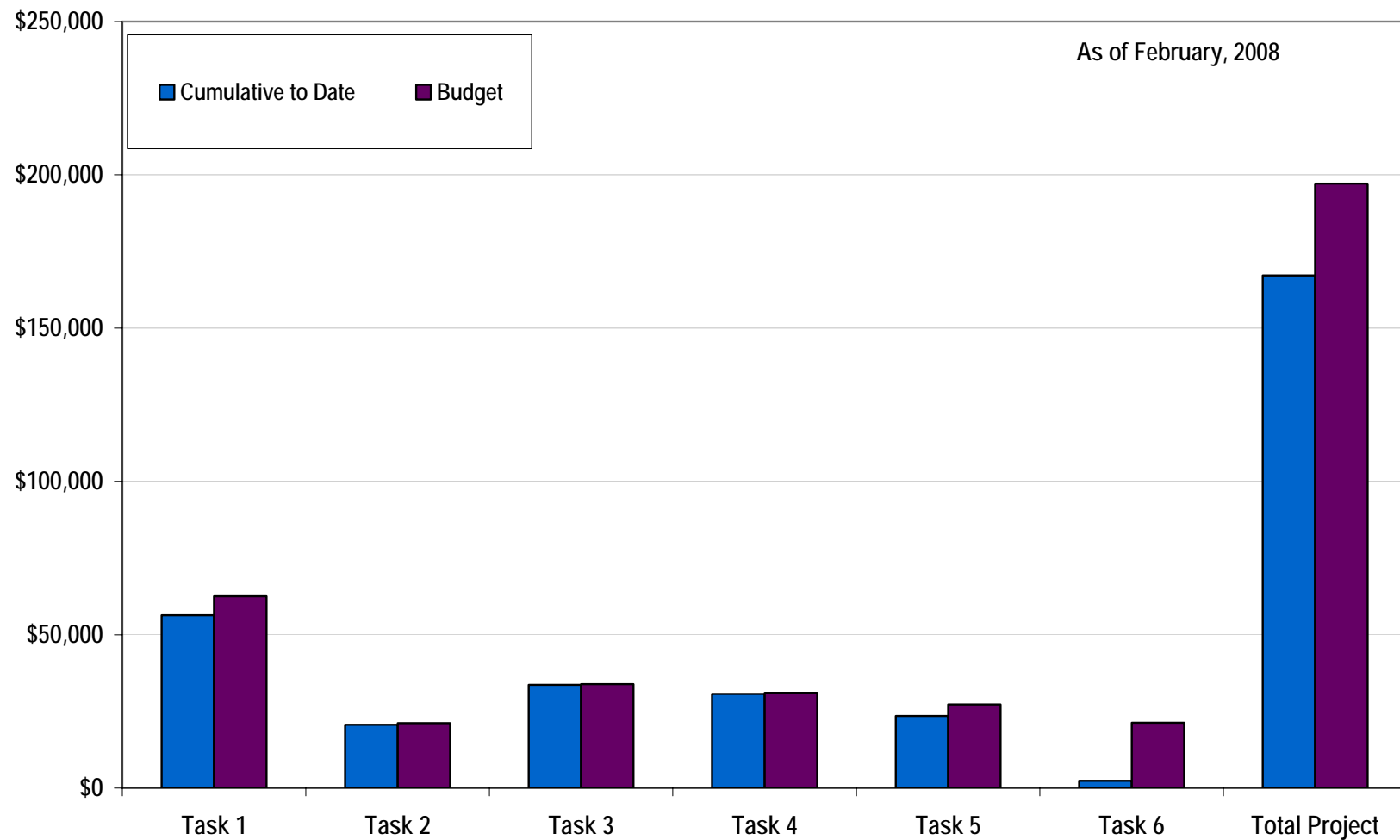


Figure 2. Cumulative Expenditures Versus Budget

